The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

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AGITATE!
EDUCATE!
ORGANIZE!

VOL. 5. NO. 18. WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, JULY 31, 1915. WHOLE NO. 226.

APPRENTICE PLAN BLOCKED

Public Official Would Flood Australian Labor Market.

COURT INTERFERENCE COSTLY.

Unionist Declares Employers Themselves Would Hardly Frame a Decision So Injurious to Their Workmen.

Sydney, New South Wales, Australia, July 31.—Union printers in this city are protesting a decision by Justice Heyden, of the court of industrial arbitration, which will make impossible any system intended to teach apprentices the complete printers' trade.

A wages board, consisting of employers and employes, sustained the union's position that apprentices should not be indentured solely to machine operating for the reason that the boys would not become competent craftsmen without instruction in other departments. The employers appealed to Justice Heyden, who, under the law, has power to set aside the wages boards' findings. The court sustained the employers in a decision that President Stanbridge, of the Typographical association, declares "first cuts up the industry and then floods it with apprentices."

Writing in a local labor paper, the unionist says:

"If the intention of the arbitration court were to kill industrial arbitration altogether I am of opinion it has adopted the right policy. The court should not allow itself to become an impenetrable bulwark behind which the employers can securely shelter themselves. Yet that seems to be the position in the judgment just given regarding apprentices. The employing printers of Sydney would scarcely have framed a decision so much to their own liking and so much to the detriment of both journeymen and apprentices."

President Stanbridge calls attention to evidence submitted that the printing industry has not absorbed the number of apprentices previously agreed to by both parties, "and yet," he says, "because some employers desire to fill their offices with low-paid and low-grade labor the number has been raised."

The printers insist that the decision will flood the labor market, as operating a machine is quickly learned, compared with other branches of the trade.

LIFE PROTECTED BY UNIONS.

Indianapolis, July 31.—The United Mine Workers' Journal calls attention to the evidence of the inspector of mines of Colorado that the courts of that state were practically closed to complaints of violations of the mining laws.

The editor makes these observations:

"Organization of the miners is the only way through which such loss of life can be lessened. Through their organization the men who have to face these dangers could voice their collective demands for observance of the laws, and for the well known safeguards against accidents. Domination of the courts would be eliminated by organized men, free to express themselves through their ballots. Thus violations of the law would be made more costly than the observance thereof. Safety for the men would become more profitable for the company than accidents. Impersonal ownership of the industries has made organization of the workers imperative. Without organization they cannot survive."

FIGHT CONVICT LEASE SYSTEM.

Montgomery, Ala., July 31.—Will dollars or humanity triumph in the fight now being waged in the legislature to abolish the convict lease system in this state?

Those who favor making money out of the bone and sinew of human beings say this system means an annual profit of $300,000, and its abandonment means a state loss of $500,000. Legislators who oppose the system are quoting the testimony of coal operators that working convict labor is a losing business proposition. These operators, however, believe the state should continue the lease system.

Friends of the convicts declare that Alabama is near the bottom of the ladder in its treatment of these unfortunates, and that convicts should be taken out of the hands of private lessees and exploiters and placed on the roads.

PREVAILING WAGE LAW VOID

St. Louis, Mo., July 31.—The law providing for the prevailing wage rate on municipal work has been declared invalid by City Counselor Daues, and the claim of politicians that the act "is not worth the paper it is written on" has been verified.

The ordinance was passed by the municipal assembly (common council). Heads of departments were authorized to confer from time to time with trades union officials that the prevailing rates would be constantly maintained. Now it has been declared void by the city attorney on the ground that before its passage it was not submitted to the municipal board of estimates.

WAGE VOTE IS ORDERED.

East Liverpool, Ohio, July 31.—Officers of the National Brotherhood of Operative Potters are submitting to a referendum wage advance resolutions adopted by the recent convention. At that time a proposition demanding a straight increase of 10 per cent was voted down, but many resolutions increasing wages in various branches of the trade were adopted. Final settlement for the two years, beginning October 1 next, will be taken up during September at a conference with the United States Potters' association, the employers' organization.

ANOTHER STANDARD OIL STRIKE

Jersey City, N. J., July 31.—Several hundred employes at the Caven Point oil works struck for wage increases and it is believed other plants of the Standard Oil company in this state will be affected. All of these men are unorganized, and trades unionists are continually calling their attention to the value of unity.

HALF HOLIDAY FOR MAIL MEN.

Toronto, Ontario, July 31.—Letter carriers are enjoying a Saturday half holiday as the result of orders by the Dominion postoffice department. The mail men were supported in their agitation for this reform by the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada. The order will be in force during July and August.

STATE EMPLOYMENT BUREAU.

Des Moines, Iowa, July 31.—The new state free employment bureau, connected with the bureau of statistics, is now in full running order. This department was created by the last legislature. The law took effect the first week of July.

"FEUDALISM STILL EXISTS"

Chicago, July 31.—Editor Perkins discusses the feudal system in the Cigar Makers' Official Journal as follows:

"Industrial feudalism was supposed to cease with the close of the fourteenth and fifteenth century. There is no question, however, but what industrial feudalism exists in the United States and of a nature just as brutal and inhuman as anything that ever occurred under the old European feudal system, and those who indulge in it are a thousand times greater criminals than those who profited by the feudalism during the feudal age.

"During the age that the feudal system prevailed it was sanctioned by law, and while brutal and inhuman, those who indulged in it were, nevertheless, within the pale of the law, while today the law and advancing civilization are supposed to have made it a misdemeanor and a crime, hence those who practice industrial feudalism here and now are not only guilty of brutal and inhuman tactics but are criminals as much as any buccaneer who ever scuttled a ship.

"Industrial feudalism exists in our country, exists in the southern coal fields in Colorado, in the textile industries and other industries. It exists in many of the iron and steel industrial centers. It exists in any community where the proprietors and big captains of industry place the workers in their debt either by loaning them money, selling them property, or renting to them under long leases; in places where company stores flourish; in places where the company owns the surrounding land, and owns the stores and in some cases the churches.

"This specie of industrial feudalism should be absolutely prohibited and by drastic methods if necessary."

COURT WON'T INTERFERE.

New Orleans, July 31.—Circuit Judge Ellis has refused to restrain the Brotherhood of Carpenters from taking the charter from a local of carpenters in this city. The defunct union started suit but Judge Ellis held that the laws of the brotherhood gave ample protection to all concerned.

He said:

"Plaintiff still has the right to appeal to the general convention of the United Brotherhood (of Carpenters and Joiners), and that pending said appeal provision is made for the holding in trust of the funds and entire effects of the plaintiff, by proper authority, and that provision is also made for the members of the plaintiff's union in good standing by the issuance of clearance cards which retain them upon their compliance with the rules of the brotherhood in all their rights as members; and further considering that under the facts here shown the duty of the court is to abstain from interference in the internal affairs of the brotherhood."

The union's charter was revoked on complaint of locals No. 1312 and 1846, sustained by a committee of investigation.

SENSITIVE BUSINESS MEN.

Boston, July 31.—This city gives "park shows" in the various parks during the summer months, but the Boston industrial board refuses to be a party to the entertainments unless certain moving pictures dealing with the child labor question are eliminated.

These business men believe that Massachusetts should now halt all anti-child labor agitation until other states "catch up" with its legislation.

Another reason advanced by Chairman John N. Cole of the board is that such pictures arouse prejudice in the minds of those people who are "very naturally dissatisfied with conditions." Mr. Cole is quite sure there are subjects enough to make interesting programs without dragging in such distressing incidents as child labor—he calls it: "the harrassing negative side of life."

NEED FOR ORGANIZATION.

Topeka, Kans., July 31.—Writing in the Daily Capital, Clyde O. Tessner makes this point:

"How is this for prosperous Kansas? Statistics show that in the canning and perserving industries in this state 77.47 per cent of the employes receive less than $10 per week, 15.48 per cent receive less than $6 per week, and of those who receive less than $10 per week 62 per cent are men and 38 per cent are women and children. Their working time averages but little less than ten hours per day. Are we not badly in need of federal labor unions?"

URGES WARNING UPON MEASLES.

Boston, July 31.—Measles in this state is a more serious disease than scarlet fever and other maladies generally considered comparatively dangerous, according to the statement issued by Prof. S. M. Gunn of the state department of health. About 500 babies die in Massachusetts each year of measles, the professor says, although a large number of these deaths are charged to bronchial pneumonia.

GRANTED WAGE INCREASE.

Fall River, Mass., July 31.—The strike of plumbers and steamfitters has ended, the employers signing the new agreement which gives the journeymen and their helpers an advance in wages, the union shop and better working conditions. The strikers were away from the shops a week, and the minimum rate to be paid to the journeymen will be $3.50 for an eight-hour day.

MINNESOTA UNIONISTS MEET.

Winona, Minn., July 31.—The thirty-third annual convention of the state federation of labor, held in this city, declared for a state insurance administered by the state and indorsed a movement looking to the repeal of the garnishment law. President Hall and Secretary-Treasurer Lawson were re-elected and Hibbing was chosen as the next convention city.

DEATH IN THE MINES.

Christopher, Ill., July 31.—Eight miners killed, eight dangerously wounded and a score less seriously wounded is the result of an explosion here in mine No. 1 of the United Coal Mining company. Most of the seriously wounded, it is believed, will die. The cause of the explosion is being investigated.

BUTCHERS ORGANIZE.

Tacoma, Wash., July 31.—Butchers in this city have organized and affiliated to the Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen of America.

OPPOSE SUNDAY WORK.

Sacramento, Calif., July 31.—The Barbers' union is opposing Sunday labor and propose picketing several shops whose proprietors believe in ceaseless toil.

"OPPOSITION TO SEAMEN'S LAW IS PROMPTED BY CUPIDITY!"

—UNITED STATES SENATOR LA FOLLETTE.

Madison, Wis., July 31.—"The Ship Owners' Conspiracy" is the title of a first-page article signed by United States Senator La Follette and published in "La Follette's Magazine," July issue.

The federal lawmaker has this to say of efforts now being made to discredit the seamen's law:

"This country is being made the victim of a vicious and menacing conspiracy. The shipping interest is putting forth every resource known to unscrupulous business to discredit the seamen's law. Through obliging commercial organizations, commercialized city dailies, subservient magazines; interest news agencies and other instrumentalities that show a startling willingness to serve special interest at the expense of the public interest, the ship owners of the United States and those of other countries are seeking to prevent the enforcement of this great humane act passed by the last congress.

"Nothing in this measure will work any hardship upon an American vessel as compared with foreign vessels. The purpose of congress in passing this law was to equalize the cost of operation by setting free the law of supply and demand in order to compel foreign ship owners to come up to the American standard. And congress gave the ship owners eight whole months in which to prepare for the law.

"How are these ship owners employing this time?

"Take for illustration the Pacific Mail Steamship company—most often quoted in the inspired news dispatches and business men's resolutions. The Pacific Mail, according to the claim of Mr. Schwerin, its general manager, is 'going out of business.' The propaganda put forth by the shipping interest asserts that it is ceasing business because of the handicaps imposed by the seamen's law. This is wholly and maliciously false.

"What has really happened is this: The Pacific Mail is separating itself from the Southern Pacific in order to comply with the terms of the Panama canal act. It has obtained estimates and specifications from the Union Iron Works of San Francisco to change its vessels from coal burners to oil burners. It has further engaged some Chinese scholars to teach part of the crews of the vessels American sea phrases. By changing from coal to oil burners the company will reduce the cost of operation of its boats.

"Robert Dollar, president of the Robert Dollar Steamship company, who recently announced that he would place his vessels under some foreign flag, had all except two of them under the British flag prior to the beginning of the war in Europe. He took advantage of the new bill to put them under the American flag for protection, stating, however, that as soon as the war was over he would go back under a foreign flag again. But there is no flag he can go under now and be exempt from the operation of the seamen's act if the vessels come to American ports.

"Let the reading public beware! This despicable attempt to embarrass the President of the United States in carrying out the terms of the seamen's law should not be permitted to succeed. It is prompted by cupidity and carried out by falsehood. Public opinion should demand that the terms of the seamen's law be carried out to the last letter. This great special interest should not be permitted even with the willing aid of great newspapers (and it has been shown that more than two millions of money is yearly distributed to American papers for shipping advertisements!) to deceive the American public concerning this measure of emancipation—emancipation from legalized slavery for the seamen and emancipation from dangers at sea for the traveling public."

INFAMY IN LAWSON'S CASE

Sacramento, Calif., July 31.—"If young Rockefeller were put upon trial for a crime in Colorado, what would the world think of the gubernatorial appointment to the bench, as a judge to try his case, of the leading counsel for the United Mine Workers of America?" asks the Sacramento Bee.

"Granby Hillyer, fresh from the service of the Rockefellers, was picked out by a gubernatorial appointment last spring to sit in judgment over a man whom his employers were prosecuting—the people had no choice therein.

"A verdict obtained under such circumstances should not be permitted to remain.

"If John R. Lawson be guilty of the crime charged against him he should be punished—and hanging would not be too severe a sentence.

"But it would be a crime against Justice, and a stain upon this Nation if he were to be forced to take a life sentence in jail at the hands of a Granby Hillyer.

"Whether one man more or less goes to jail is of very little consequence in comparison with the question whether the scales of Justice are to be thus weighed in advance against a defendant.

"For, if this thing can be done against John R. Lawson, it can be done against any man."

PORTO RICO SCHOOLS DECREASE.

San Juan, Porto Rico, July 31.—More than 200,000 children of school age in this island have been left without school accommodation and about 300 teachers have been dropped because school appropriations have been reduced.

The above statements are made by Santiago Iglesias, American Federation of Labor organizer, in "Justicia," official newspaper of the Porto Rican Federation of Labor. The unionist says:

"An attempt has been made to minimize the teaching of the English language in the public schools, and there has been a desire for demoralizing the vocational education, such as trying to make the pupil hate the American methods of teaching and even to hate the American teachers.

"Under a pretense of economy the Porto Rican budget for 1915 was reduced about $500,000 below the budget of 1915, but attention is called to the fact that the one item alone, that is, for educational purposes in Porto Rico, was reduced by more than $700,000 below the budget of 1914 to 1916."

PEOPLE MORE THRIFTY.

San Francisco, July 31.—According to reports by building and loan associations of this country, these institutions increased their assets last year more than $100,000,000, making a growth of nearly 9 per cent over the previous year.

There are in the United States 6,612 building and loan associations, with a membership of 3,103,425 and assets aggregating $1,357,340,036. This is an increase over last year of 183 associations, 267,002 members and $108,860,897 in assets.

PRINTERS CALL ON UNIONISTS.

Chicago, July 31.—Typographical union adopted a resolution inviting other trades unions to join with it in obtaining the services of a legal representative to watch the investigation into the Eastland disaster. The resolution declares the accident will go down in history as "one more charge against carelessness or incompetency," and that "every disaster of this nature in the past has resulted in a 'whitewash' for the offenders."

BREWERY WORKERS ADVANCE.

Baltimore, July 31.—Brewery workers have destroyed the possibility of a solid line up against their new wage scale by the American Brewing company signing the new three-year contract. Wages of brew workers and drivers are inceased $1 a week. Bottlers will be granted an eight-hour day and engineers and firemen are given a ten-days' vacation annually.

TO URGE "SAFETY FIRST."

San Francisco, July 31.—A committee, of which Coroner Leland is chairman, is drawing up safety regulations for elevators. This committee is co-operating with the state industrial accident commission in its "safety first" campaign. Other committees are considering safety rules for boilers and engines.

AGAINST TENEMENT LABOR.

Albany, N. Y., July 31.—A committee of the state constitutional convention favors an amendment to the organic act prohibiting the manufacture of goods in New York city tenements. This amendment would leave no doubt as to the police power of the state to handle this question.

WAITRESSES WIN STRIKE.

St. Louis, Mo., July 31.—Waitresses have won their strike against the Gem restaurants. The management has agreed to an eight-hour day and a wage of $1.10 per day.

ALLIED PRINTING TRADES UNION LABEL COUNCIL WASHINGTON

EASTLAND OWNERS OPPOSE SAFETY LAW

Washington, July 31.—Owners of the ill-fated Eastland opposed the seamen's bill. Secretary Redfield of the department of commerce has made public the letters of General Manager Hull, who called on the former to have the act either "modified or entirely cancelled." The cabinet official answered that he had no such power, and in answer to his request for objections to the law, Hull replied, in substance:

That it would be a "physical impossibility" to comply with the life saving clauses of the law, and that "if it were possible to put this amount of equipment on the Eastland the weight that would be added to her upper deck would make the boat difficult to handle."

That the provision increasing the number of competent seamen "would afford an opportunity to able seamen to fix an arbitrary wage and tie up the boat without provocation."

"There is no reason for an increase in life-saving equipment on this run."

"The boat is constructed of steel throughout. Her run between Chicago and St. Joseph is approximately sixty [illegible] is at no time in excess of [illegible] and thirty-three minutes from shore, and at all times on her run is within ten to sixty minutes of all steamers. Assistance in case of trouble could readily be secured from other steamers and the ports of Chicago, Michigan City, Milwaukee, St. Joseph and South Haven.

"It will be impossible to operate under the seamen's law and make expenses. This will naturally affect the stocks and the bonds and in the case of a great many companies will render their bond issues practically worthless."

The sections of the seamen's law that General Manager Hull objected to will not take effect until Nov. 4 next. This means that the Eastland would not have to comply with the law until next summer.

STATE COURTS NOT AGREED.

Washington, July 31.—Contrary views of state courts on the validity of social legislation is shown in a bulletin (No. 169) just issued by the federal bureau of labor statistics.

In considering occupational diseases, for instance, the Massachusetts courts hold lead poisoning to be within the state act, providing for compensation for "personal injuries arising out of and in the course of employment," while the Michigan courts, under the provisions of a state law similarly expressed, hold that a case of lead poisoning is not entitled to compensation.

In Massachusetts inflammation of an eye, caused by inhaling poisonous gases, was held to come under the compensation act, while in New Jersey the court disallowed a claim on account of eczema said to be caused by acids used in a bleachery.

DISASTER PREDICTED BY CHICAGO UNIONISTS

Chicago, July 31.—In notifying President Wilson of the Eastland disaster, which resulted in the loss of approximately 1,300 lives, Secretary Nockles, of the Chicago Federation of Labor, inclosed a copy of resolutions forwarded to the federal department of commerce June 22, 1914, in which an Eastland disaster was predicted.

This resolution of protest against the steamboat inspection service declares:

"We believe the condition of the excursion passenger steamers are altogether too unsafe to be permitted to continue without a most vigorous protest from this federation as a matter of record, in the event of any accident in the future, that we, at least, had registered a protest. The crowded conditions allowed will result in the loss of thousands of lives even though tied to the dock.

"We notice in press dispatches that former President Mellen of the New Haven railroad, referred to the coast steamers as 'tinder boxes.' The same applies here because, as our committee has said, it seems that United States inspectors are more concerned with the vessel owners' interest and support than the protest of the public."

UNIONS' PLAN IS EFFECTIVE

Albion, N. Y., July 31.—The Paving Cutters' Journal has this to say of the power trades unions possess in enforcing better conditions:

"The repeal, or what really amounts to a repeal, of the law known as the anti-screen law in the state of Ohio, shows conclusively how little dependence can be placed on lawmakers to protect the interests of the wage earners. It had taken years of work and agitation to enact this law, which was placed upon the statute book only a year ago by a legislature which proved favorable to the miners. It has now been removed or made ineffective by a legislature which was indifferent if not hostile to them. Fortunately for the miners they did not rely wholly on this law for protection, as is verified by the fact that in the agreement recently entered into with their employers this question was well taken care of. Though the miners well knew the value of favorable laws, and sought them, they also knew they could not wholly depend on them, and that their only security depended on a settlement of this question directly between themselves and their employers. The onslaught made on labor legislation by the enemies of labor at the last session of the New York state legislature furnishes another glaring example of how easily and without compunction the interests of the wage earners may be sacrificed. Such incidents surely ought to convince all intelligent and sincere union members of the fact that the preservation and security of their rights and their liberties can only be found in their own united efforts, wisely exercised and guided through union activities."

WANT TO WRITE INSURANCE.

Columbus, Ohio, July 31.—Private accident insurance companies doing business in this state find their occupation disappearing because of rules by the state industrial commission, which handles the workmen's compensation insurance. The commission has expressly forbidden these concerns to write "employers' liability insurance" in the licenses granted them by the insurance department since the workmen's compensation insurance law became effective.

Their licenses stipulate that they may write certain insurance "except employers' liability insurance," nevertheless, they have been writing such insurance. The industrial commission contends that no company has the right to conduct a workmen's compensation insurance business.

Trade unionists are supporting the state industrial commission. The workers declare that if the private concerns are allowed to write insurance the compensation plan will be greatly impaired and prompt payments will be replaced by litigation and court costs.

SAYS REFERENDUM IS LEGAL.

Chicago, July 31.—L. H. Strawn, acting attorney general of Illinois, does not take seriously the claim of Addison C. Harris, of Indianapolis, that the referendum can not be legally adopted in those states that originally formed the Northwest Territory, because it was provided that this area, when turned over to the Union, "should have a strict republican form of government."

The Indianapolis man made this statement at a meeting of the Wisconsin Bar association, and Attorney General Strawn says:

"These chaps who speak at bar association conventions always feel that they have to startle their audience, so they spend long hours trying to dig up something sufficiently startling. This looks like it was intended for just such a purpose."

STRIKING WIRE MEN GAIN.

Minneapolis, July 31.—Striking electrical workers report continued advances in their effort to raise wages. International President McNulty was in the city recently and conferred with his fellow unionists, who have secured the work of wiring several large buildings in process of construction.

WANT A STATE CONSTABULARY.

Denver, July 31.—It is charged that corporate interests are preparing to have a "spontaneous" cry for a state constabulary start in various sections of Colorado. These corporations have brought the state militia into ill repute and hints of a cossack system are now being heard.

CITY LABORERS' WAGES RAISED.

Everett, Mass., July 31.—The city council has increased wages of city laborers from $2.25 to $2.50 per day. The council refused to accept a report of its committee on finance that a two weeks' vacation for these workers is illegal. This order was passed.

PRESSMEN ORGANIZE.

Muskegon, Mich., July 31.—A local of pressmen and press assistants has been formed in this city through efforts of Organizer Vickery. This official is assisting in building up the locals of his craft in Kalamazoo and Battle Creek.

LABOR HAS NO "LEADERS"

Sydney, New South Wales, Australia, July 31.—The Australian Worker makes this spirited reply to the charge by Premier Holman that a recent labor conference was merely "a voting machine:"

"The labor movement is not clay in the hands of either a conference or a premier. It is not a plastic lump, to be pinched and squeezed into this shape or that by a number of persons posing as the molders of its destiny.

"The labor movement is a leaderless movement.

"It chooses certain individuals to voice its views and cast its votes, but it gives no one whatsoever the right or the power to impose his own personal ideas upon it—to embody his private opinions and prejudices and fallacies in formal statements and declare: 'Behold, the labor platform.'

"The labor movement is the biggest thing on earth. It is so big that it can't be packed into four walls or crammed into the cranium of any man alive, be the size of his hat what it may.

"Nothing smaller than the whole world will do for it. Though for practical purposes it divides itself in accordance with geographical boundaries and racial characteristics, in spirit it is cosmopolitan, and even mountains and oceans cannot condition it.

"The labor movement represents the spontaneous coming together of the workers, goaded by common wrongs into seeking a common remedy.

"In the ordinary meaning of the term it has no 'leaders.' It neither desires nor requires them.

"It chooses delegates to do certain definite work; it endows them with power to vote in a certain way on certain definite subjects.

"But it has not the slightest intention of allowing itself to become the puppet of any man or group of men. It is bigger than any man or group of men. It is better than any man or group of men."

"REGULATING" FREE SPEECH.

San Francisco, July 31.—Under the caption "Free Speech and Correct Opinions," the Evening Bulletin publishes this editorial:

"One most valuable contribution to the subject of free speech comes from the pen of Chancellor Day, of Syracuse university, who says: 'Convictions must be more than honest; they must be correct.'

"This disposes of the whole difficulty of free speech, whether it be free speech for workingmen in 'company towns,' or free speech for university professors. First ascertain, through Chancellor Day and other gentlemen who know what truth is, what opinions are correct, and then suppress those that are incorrect. What comfort to end arguments by bringing forth the official document certifying to one's intellectual correctness! Political parties will disappear, since only one set of opinions can be correct. Labor unions will be unnecessary, since the correct industrial policy will be found and followed. The poor will no longer envy the rich, since it will, no doubt, be found that great wealth and great want are both proper and correct."

STEEL WORKERS WIN.

Buffalo, N. Y., July 31.—Employes of the Seneca Iron and Steel company at Blasdell, near here, have won their strike and formed a local affiliated to the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers. A. F. of L. Organizer Streifler assisted these workers, who have raised wages from 10 to 18 per cent over former rates. The victory is more than ordinary because the Amalgamated association has been attempting to organize this mill for several years. It is believed present successes will have an effect on steel workers employed in the nonunion Lackawanna Steel company, at Lackawanna.

The agreement with the Seneca company provides for a regular wage scale and the creation of a permanent arbitration board to settle disputes. Employes shall designate one of their number to serve on the board. It is further agreed that "there shall be no cessation of work during the deliberation of the arbitration board," and the company agrees that there shall be no discrimination because of union affiliation.

IRON BUSINESS INCREASES.

Cleveland, July 31.—A local publication devoted to the iron and steel interests says that the demand for iron and steel for uses not connected with the European war is steadily increasing. This refers especially to automobile companies not catering to war business and large manufacturers of agricultural implements. It is stated that one of the largest independent concerns in the Pittsburgh district, now operating at 85 per cent of its capacity, believes that 70 per cent of its orders represent domestic consumption.

OIL WORKERS RETURN TO WORK.

Bayonne, N. J., July 31.—Striking employes in the Standard Oil company plants have voted to return to work on the company's promise to increase wages and consider other grievances. The workers are unorganized and are paid as low as $10 a week. Many of them are skeptical of the company's promise that things will be righted within ten days and predictions of another strike are freely made. The company imported large numbers of gun men and made constant appeals for the state militia.

UNIONISTS DON'T FORGET.

Detroit, July 31.—Ex-Police Commissioner Fred W. Smith can testify to the memory of trades unionists. Several years ago this gentleman used the police to break a strike of metal polishers. Believing the incident was forgotten, Mr. Smith recently announced his candidacy for the position of judge in one of the local courts. The unionists started a whirlwind anti-Smith campaign and when the votes were counted the ex-commissioner was 3,900 short.

HIGHER RATES FOR LABORERS.

Hazelton, Pa., July 31.—At the three-district convention of miners to be held in September, delegates from this section will urge a higher wage rate for laborers on outside work. The present minimum is $1.65 a day. It is hoped this will be increased to $2.

STEEL WORKERS ORGANIZE.

Warren, Ohio, July 31.—A local of steel workers has been organized in this city and affiliated to the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers.

FAVOR STATE PRINTER LAW.

Atlanta, Ga., July 31.—Printers in this state are urging the legislature to pass a law creating the office of state printer.

N. Y. GARMENT WORKERS WIN

Conciliation Board Checks Anti-Union Employers.

WAGE INCREASES ARE ORDERED

Award Shatters Old Theory That "Every Man Has The Right to Run His Own Business."

New York, July 31.—In an award by a board of conciliation, appointed by Mayor Mitchel, the International Ladies' Garment Workers' union has won a signal victory over the Cloak, Suit and Skirt Manufacturers' Protective association.

The board has dealt the employers' organization several hard blows, one of the most effective being a recommendation that some method be devised whereby claims of workers that they are unjustly discharged may be considered.

The conciliators express these views on the theory that "every man has the right to run his own business:"

"No human being is wise enough to be able to trust his sole judgment in decisions that affect the welfare of others; he needs to be protected, and, if he is truly wise, will welcome protection against the errors to which he is liable in common with his kind, as well as against the inspirations of passions or selfishness. For this reason, a tribunal of some kind is necessary, in case either of the parties to this covenant believes itself to be unjustly aggrieved."

Wages are increased all along the line and it is ordered that old protocol standards for piece work be again renewed. This latter is most important for it means an end, according to President Schlesinger of the international union, "to the haggling with price committees in the shops, which resulted in the discharge of workers who demanded a decent wage and the enslavement of those workers who did not hold out against the demands of avaricious bosses."

Contractural relations existed between the garment workers and their employers for several years. On May 20 the employers abrogated the procotol and announced they would no longer deal with the union. The workers declared their willingness to arbitrate and prepared to protect their interests. A gigantic strike seemed imminent when the employers abandoned their warlike attitude.

A STORY WITH A MORAL.

Vancouver, British Columbia, July 31.—The B. C. Federationist, official newspaper of Vancouver trades unionists, prints this story with its pointed moral:

"Vancouver firemen are learning the disadvantage of having no organization. At a meeting of the fire and police committee on Wednesday, a delegation from the firemen was present to press for the same treatment covering wages as that extended to the civic police. Plenty of evidence was proffered to show that other cities were dealing more leniently with the firemen.

"In 1911 the firemen of Vancouver organized a union, chartered by the American Federation of Labor, and affiliated themselves with the central labor body. They also, at that time, made a number of demands for betterment of conditions. After a flutter around city hall circles for a few days, the fire and police committee agreed to concede practically all of the demands—provided, however, that the new union would surrender its charter and stay away from organized labor. Unfortunately the firemen were persuaded to fall in with this suggestion. And today they are being rewarded in a way usual in such cases."

"ROOM AT TOP" FALLACY.

Chicago, July 31.—During the recent street car arbitration proceedings, President Busby, of the surface lines, told the commission one company official started as a workman earning but $1.50 a day and was now receiving $10,000 a year. Mr. Busby insisted that this indicated the opportunities within the grasp of the most humble worker.

The Daily Journal comments as follows on the incident:

"Up to date the companies have named only one man who has climbed from the ranks to an important position and an income exactly one-sixth as large as that paid to Mr. Busby, who never served in the ranks. The other day 14,000 traction employes struck to secure decent living wages. The 'chance to rise' in the traction service, therefore, appears to be one in 14,000. If Mr. Busby, while in general law practice, had been offered a case where the odds were 14,000 to one against his winning, would he have taken that case on a contingent fee?

"This chatter about a 'chance to rise' and 'room at the top' is the cheapest piffle with which privilege ever tried to still the just complaints of labor."

WANT FACTORY INSPECTORS.

Atlanta, Ga., July 31.—Unionists of this state are urging the passage of a law creating the office of factory inspector to enforce statutes intended to protect the lives and health of working people. In an open letter to the state assembly, the Journal of Labor says:

"Some of the factories, mills and workships of Georgia * * * there are conditions which appall an investigator and which shock the moral sense of any one who is not calloused by a criminal disregard of the health and morals of those who have been cast into the cauldron of cupidity."

PLUMBERS CONFER.

Everett, Wash., July 31.—Uniform laws providing for sanitary plumbing and a consequent increase of health was one of the main subjects discussed at the convention of the Northwestern Association of Plumbers and Steamfitters, held in this city. The delegates represented Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana and British Columbia. General Organizer Bruce said employers should join with the workers in this movement, which would benefit the people as a whole.

METAL WORKERS TO ASK MORE.

Philadelphia, July 31.—At a meeting of executives of metal working unions it was decided that demands be made for a general wage increase. It was agreed that the local unions should present their demands at one time. It is probable that an eight-hour day will be included in the request. There was no strike sentiment at the meeting, the workers present believing that their demands will be conceded.

CONVICTS TO BUILD ROADS.

Sacramento, Calif., July 31.—Starting August 3 officials will work convicts on road building. Several camps of nearly 100 prisoners each will be maintained. It is intended to apply the honor system at these camps. There will be no guards and the convicts will do their own policing, but the men will be selected who can be trusted. Credits will be given for good behavior.